

CLAIMS

1. A movable barrier for a poolside opening, including:

a rod disposed adjacent to said poolside opening, said rod being movable
5 from a first, retracted position to a second, extended position in which said rod
substantially spans said poolside opening;

means for moving said rod from said first position to said second position;

and,

means for otherwise maintaining said rod in said first position.

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2. The movable barrier of claim 1, wherein said means for moving includes
hydraulic means.

3. The movable barrier of claim 2, wherein said hydraulic means includes a
15 pipe in which said rod is slidably disposed, and said means for moving includes a
pressurized fluid source for translating said rod in said pipe in piston-like fashion.

4. The movable barrier of claim 3, wherein said means for otherwise
maintaining said rod in said first position comprises primarily the weight of said
20 rod.

5. The movable barrier of claim 1, wherein said poolside opening is
operatively associated with a storage receptacle for a pool cleaner having a

cleaning head, said storage receptacle being dimensioned to house said cleaning head.

6. The movable barrier of claim 5, wherein said means for moving is
5 operable only when said cleaning head is deployed out of said storage receptacle, whereby said cleaning head cannot re-enter said storage receptacle while deployed.

7. The movable barrier of claim 6, wherein said pool cleaner is driven by
10 water pressure and said means for moving is driven by water pressure.

8. The movable barrier of claim 7, further including a first valve connected to provide said water pressure through a common supply line to said pool cleaner and said means for moving said rod.

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9. The movable barrier of claim 3, wherein said pipe is disposed directly adjacent to said poolside opening.

10. In an automatic pool cleaner having a cleaning head stored in a
20 poolside receptacle and deployable to clean the pool water; the improvement comprising:

a movable barrier for blocking entry of the cleaning head into the poolside receptacle; and,

means for extending said movable barrier when said cleaning head is deployed.

11. The improved pool cleaner of claim 10, wherein said movable barrier
5 includes a translatable rod extendable to substantially span the opening of said receptacle.

12. The improved pool cleaner of claim 11, wherein said rod is disposed
within a pipe, and further including hydraulic means for translating said rod in
10 said pipe in piston-like fashion to the extended position.